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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts ! publication wish to have rejected articles returned the must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Voyage to South America.

The agents of an esteemed steamship company doing a transportation business between North American and South American ports write to us to say that they are "getting a little touchy" about the matter of comment on the poor transportation service to Brazil and the River Plate. They complain of THE SUN'S Prince as a vessel of 3.182 tons. This is the tonnage of the vessel as given by Lloyds. Our correspondents inform us just despatched the Voltaire, with a carcoast of South America and that they will soon send out the Verdi, a new steamer of more than 10,000 tons burden. We gladly give wings to such cheerful

Our interest in frade development in South America is not at all a mere doctrinal interest in a political policy, but a live regard for commercial enterprise to our people and in which our trade is much less than it might be and should be. If that trade can be developed without Government aid in any form so much the better. If it cannot be or \$26,978,928. is not properly developed without such assistance we are in favor of the assistance. We regard the proposed payment to mail carriers as in this case at least an excellent business investment. A enormous increase is due to the fact as is an adequate freight service. We

are glad to announce an improvement in the expenditures of the State it is altoyet to regard the system as entirely adesomething lacking in our business with South America until there is installed a regular service which in all its parts shall take equal place in the maritime world with the lines now plying between that continent and Europe. We already know that about a hundred

ships a year depart from North American ports for the east coast of South America sailing under foreign flags; but we hold that the present service is in no way creditable to such a country as the United States. It is not a service of which an American can speak with even a proper pride. We say this with all respect to the honorable company which makes more or less frequent despatch of such ships as the African Prince, the Voltaire and the Verdi. We should say it if the sailings of such vessels were more frequent. In 1900 our sales to Brazil and the River Plate country were about \$25,000,000. Last year they were somewhat more than twice that sum. During the same time our imports from those countries increased about 75 per cent. During the fiscal year 1907 our sales to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina amounted to \$54. 275,000 and our purchases from those lands amounted to \$117,750,000...

Only an insignificant fraction of this merchandise was carried under the American flag, and our mails to those countries go by the way of Europe. This mail route gives Europe a very clear advantage over the United States in the transmission of orders and the despatch of merchandise. It is THE SUN's belief that this country can well afford to enable some enterprising company to establish a line of speedy and commodious steamships to carry mails, passengers and freight swiftly and comfortably to South American ports and that it cannot afford to be without such a line.

We trust that our esteemed if "touchy correspondent will permit us, as Americans interested in the shipping and the commerce of our country, to be a little "touchy" on our side of this question. We should like to see a creditable mail packet line running to Rio de Janeiro. Montevideo and Buenos Ayres as well as lines of owned or chartered tramps, whatever their size or the frequency of their despatch. The fast express train and the speedy mail boat are as essential in trade and commerce to-day as are the freight train and the bulk carrying steamer.

Yesterday the great Roosevelt Armada sailed. How much more truly desirable the Gallinger Argosy!

In the Interests of Veterans.

Mr. FORAKER of Ohio has introduced in the Senate a bill that profoundly concerns the army, and it has been referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. It provides that all officers below the grade of Brigadier-General holding commissions in the Regular army or now on the retired list who served "with credit" as officers or enlisted men during the civil war for three years prior to April 9, 1865, and who afterward served continuously in the Regular army for thirty or more years "prior to April 15, 1901," or who have been or shall be retired on account of wounds incident to the service or on account of age or after forty years service, may, "in the discretion of the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, be placed on the retired

section is as follows:

"That all officers of the army who are entitled to be reffred under this act shall, in the discretion of the President, be nominated and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, be appointed as officers with such advanced rank and be commisdoned accordingly."

We don't know how many officers in or out of the service a law so made would affect. The well organized Adjutant-General's office could supply the number quickly, and the cost to the Government could then be calculated. Comparatively few of the officers now holding commissions who would profit by such a law can be under the rank of Colonel, and as they were passed over by the President when he promoted their juniors and subordinates to the great demoralization of the service, it would seem to be an act of justice and one that would quiet discontent to give all the veterans the compensation proposed by Senator For-AKER. By virtue of the second section, which authorizes immediate retirements, Majors and Captains already gray in service would move up a rank.

As the President has been in the habit of selecting officers about to retire and promoting them to Brigadier-Generals, it will not escape notice that Senator FORAKER'S bill not only urges the same favor to all other such officers but gives the sanction of incontrovertible law to Presidential action.

Triumph of Indirect Taxation. Comptroller GLYNN in his report for the year ended with September 30 discloses the gratifying fact that in 1906-07 recent reference to the steamer African it cost \$3,500,000 more to run New York State than in any previous twelvemonth Nor is this all, for the Treasury has accumulated a surplus of \$13,500,000, which, that she carries a cargo of more than with the sinking funds of \$9.500,000, is 10,000 tons. They add that they have sufficient to pay all the debts of the State and leave a balance of \$6,000,000 rying capacity of 16,000 tons, to the east to tempt the next Legislature to new extravagances.

How great the progress of New York in costly government has been is not realized by all. The annual appropriations for 1881 were only \$9,878,000. By 1892 they had increased to \$13,540,000 In 1893 the first appropriation was made by the State for the care of the insane, who theretofore had been charges of the and activity in a market which is open cities, towns and counties. This appropriation was \$1,346,000. In 1905 it was \$6,500,000. Last year it was \$5,850,000. The total of the appropriations reached \$20,000,000 in 1896, and for 1906 it was

Thus in a quarter of a century the cos of running the State has gone up by nearly 200 per cent. That there has been but slight popular complaint over this proper mail and passenger service is now that the revenues now come, and for of as much importance in commerce several years have come, from indirect taxation. If a tax were levied to meet this freight service, but we are unable gether likely that the extravagance at Albany would be restrained. It is the quate for existing needs. There will be greatest triumph of indirect taxation that its victims do not feel its burden until the possibility of easy retrenchment has long been passed.

Whittier.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER, the centenary of whose birth will be commemorated to-day, is, next to EMERSON and WHITMAN, our most distinctively American poet. It is true that his method of reatment, the vehicle of his sentiment or thought, is not, as theirs is, original, but is imitative; the themes, however, which he best loved were indigenous and racy of the soil. His chosen fount of inspiration is native to New England hills.

Of Quaker ancestry and rearing, the son of a farmer, WHITTIER was born and brought up on the banks of the Merrimack, and the blended influences of heredity and environment were revealed in his temperament and character. He had the Puritan sturdy independence without any of the Puritan's narrowness and harshness. His sympathies were wide as well as deep. He saw in all men brethren, and he strove with ardor to promote their liberty and welfare. His spiritual characteristic was a passionate love of freedom, but it was freedom in the largest sense-freedom from persecution, freedom from slavery, freedom from

convention, freedom from creed. WHITTIER was by no means what is termed a highly educated man. Unlike LONGFELLOW, he owed nothing to university training, nor was his mind enriched by foreign travel. He acquired what common schools and academies could give him, but for the most part he was, like Burns, self-taught, and, like BURNS, it was after many falterings that he learned to speak from the heart to the heart. The majority of WHITTIER'S earlier experiments in verse have been long forgotten, nor indeed did they deserve to be remembered. His anti-slavery poems are for the most part destitute of beauty. His reform poems have been called stump speeches in metre. His perpetual repetition of pietistic allusion or pious exhortation is monotonous. His rhetoric is often commonplace. He was no master of rhythm; the jingle of his seesaw rhymes is sometimes irksome to a cultivated ear. He seems, indeed, to have been far from blind to his own deficiencies, for he speaks of himself as one "whose rhyme beat often Labor's hurried time," and in the Proem to his complete poems he disclaims any power of uttering

"The old melodious lays Which softly melt the ages through, The songs of SPENSER's golden days. Arcadian Sidney's silvery phrase, orinkling our noon of time with freshest morning

dew." But while it would be possible to cite from WHITTIER examples of fustian, flaccidity and even bathos it is also easy to cull from him some of the sweetest and noblest embodiments of lyrical grace and beauty. These will be recognized not only in certain exquisite hymns, which are undisfigured by his customary homiletics, but in many of the works produced in the maturity of his genius, such as "Snow-Bound," "Maud Muller," "Barbara Frietchie," "The Witch's Daughter," "Telling the Bees," "Skipper Ireson's Ride," "King Volmer and Elsie" and "The Tent on the Beach." Considlist of the army with the rank and retired | ered as an artist his traits are simplicity,

pay of a Brigadier-General." A second fucidity and tenderness; but when wrought to fervor the Quaker bard was capable of unsuspected strength, as when he wrote:

" Maddened by Earth's wrong and evil, Lord! I cried in sudden ire, From Thy right hand, clothed with thunder, Shake the belted Bre."

Or this stanza from "The Rendition": 'And Law, an unloosed manlac, strong, Blood drunken, through the blackness trod Hoarse shouting in the ear of Goo

The blasphemy of wrong." As WHITTIER read and thought and lived much of the old Quakerism that had been bred in him disappeared; the belief, for instance, in hell and in the Messianic and Atonement machinery. There is no proof, however, that he ever assimilated the unteleological, unanthropomorphic explanations of things which we owe to modern science; we find in WHITTIER no trace of personal absorption of the doctrines of the evolution of man, the correlation of forces and the development of the universe through its own inner potency. His religion is a simple and trustful theism. Thus in the "Eternal Goodness" he says:

"I know not where His Islands lift Their fronded palms in air; I only know I cannot drift

Beyond His love and care." And in the "Question of Life" he asks in undisguised perplexity:

"I am: but little more I know Whence came it Whither do I go? A centred self, which feels and is: A cry between the silences.'

As a thinker, indeed, it is undeniable that WHITTIER belonged to the prescientific age. But even when science and emotion shall have been fused in the poetry of the future, he will still be honored and cherished as a singer who could reach and elevate the soul and who believed in the unward progress the dignity and the rights of man.

Rojestvensky and Evans.

"No fleet of such size," said President ROOSEVELT in his recent message, referring to the "practice cruise," "has ever made such a voyage." The statement naturally suggests the expedition of the ill starred ROJESTVENSKY As an achievement in steaming for seven months to the Far East under the most intoward conditions it was the most remarkable in naval annals. The wonder was that the Russian fleet ever reached Tsushima and was able to take up a battle formation. Most of the coaling and repairing had to be done in the open sea, and the fleet carried only one chief naval constructor, EUGENE S. POLITVOSKY, who went down with ROJESTVENSKY'S flagship. It is from Politovsky's diary, mailed to his wife from ports of call, that we learn the appalling difficulties under which the Russian Admiral labored in obeying the orders of his august master to lead the fleet to certain destruction. It never dropped anchor even in French waters but to be warned off until it arrived in Van Fong Bay and there prepared for its doom. In Vigo Bay, on the Spanish coast, ROJESTVENSKY had to use stealth and force to get enough coal to proceed. The authorities at Madrid gave him permission reluctantly to take on 400 tons and posting sentries over the collier hawsers he gave orders to them to shoot any one who interfered until he had obtained 800 tons. In the French African ports the officials were "personally courteous" but "officially cold," and ROJESTVENSKY had to disregard their orders to move on, declaring at Gaboon, for instance, that his ships were damaged and could not sail. This may have been true, for POLITOVSKY writes in his diary:

"There are continual mishans to the various ships. One gets sand in her sea valves, although sixty miles off shore; she must have scraped a shoat, Another gets hot bearings, and the whole fleet is stopped; another breaks her condenser; another mashes her propeller blade; another breaks he piston rod; with most of them the steering gear is continually getting out of order. Naval con structors are in demand night and day.

The crews of some ships were often or the verge of mutiny, and on none could strict discipline be preserved. In February there is this sinister item in the diary:

"A transport, the Maiay, is largely loaded with unaties. She is about to return to Russia with lunatics, drunkards, invalids and men deported for crimes. The crew are all hard cases, beachcombers and the like, picked up in the Madagasear ports. All the officers carry loaded revolvers; a mutiny breaks out among the lunaties and other prisoners, then among the crew; the officers sup press it with much slaughter."

.The officers, realizing that only a shameful defeat was to be expected on the day of battle, neglected their duties, gambled for high stakes and drank deep. When the Germans among them celebrated the Kaiser's birthday "they drank so much that they remained drunk two days," wrote poor Polit-VOSKY. On the long voyage the ships' bottoms became almost incredibly foul. "We shall arrive in the East with dirty ships and the Japanese will meet us with clean ones," was set down despondently in the diary. POLITOVOSKY, to illustrate the ignorance of the officers, writes in one place: "Yesterday I heard a wordy quarrel among the Lieutenants about how many stokeholes and boilers there are in this flagship." On the eve of battle its officers sat long at table drinking and singing. The following day nearly 1,000 officers and 12,000 men perished by shot and shell and drowning.

No parallel can be worked out between the voyages of the fleets of ROJEST-VENSKY and Admiral Evans, not even as to the time taken, if we suppose that the American fleet goes no further than San Francisco, which the President speaks of guardedly as its destination in his message. In four months and a half Admiral Evans ought to run in through the Golden Gate. ROJESTVENSKY was seven months getting to Van Fong Bay. Admiral Evans will be welcome at his five ports of call and nothing he needs will be withheld from the fleet. He will be able to coal at leisure and take his time about repairs. There is no enemy to encounter in the voyage through the Straits of Magellan or In the open sea. His ships are well provisioned and everybody will have comfortable quarters. The disci-

pline on board is perfect, and officers and

no comparison.

men are proud of their ships, between which and the nondescript and patched up fleet of ROJESTVENSKY there can be

The President was right when he said that "no fleet of such size has ever made such a voyage." Even England, the first of naval Powers, never sends a great battleship fleet of the kind round a continent and into waters thousands of miles away for target practice. ROJEST-VENSKY'S voyage, as we have pointed out, was notable only because he kept his wretched ships afloat and together with incompetent officers and mutinous crews to sail them.

If you do things in the department to which you re elected according to the common sense viewhich you may have you are liable to indictment or violating the Charter.—Comptrailer MNTS. Yet this does not prove the Charter to be in the wrong.

By the evidence of statistics the public lectures given by the city Board of Education are appreciated. Dr. HENRY M. LEIP-ZIGER, who supervises the courses, reports that last year 540 speakers in more than 5,000 lectures addressed 1,141,447 persons. The supervisor suggests that the course might well be organized, examinations held and certificates given, so that the work done "may be definitely recognized and rewarded by the colleges and universities.'

I have not studied finance myself. My own experience has been limited to trying to meet my own obligations.—Senator BEN TILLMAN. Most persons are in the same boat with

him. The Senator's ignorance of the subject does not prevent him from making long speech in the Senate upon the efforts of Secretary Corrector to avert widespread disaster during the late panic

I pity the man who will be his (President ROOSE-VELT'S) successor. It has become harder and harder to fill the position. GEORGE WASHINGTON could no more fill the Presidency to day than that of the poet laureate of England. Neither could President LINCOLN. They were equal to the day in which they lived, but conditions are much harder.—The Rev. Dr. ROBERT S. MACARTBUR.

WASHINGTON did his best in the critical time for constitutional government that followed his first inauguration in 1789, and LINCOLN as the civil war President was a respectable figure; but it must be admitted that neither one of them could find time for long absences from the Executive office for visits to the tropics, for hunting dangerous wild beasts, for writing books of adventure and for personal controversies with naturalists in the magazines. From that point of view Mr. ROOSEVELT is indisputably a smarter and readier man, and deserves the distinction bestowed upon him by discerning admirers like Dr. Mac-

WASTED POLICEMEN.

Innecessary Watching at the Bedsides of

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have been a hospital doctor for nearly thirty years. During this time of course many, very many, suicides have come under my observation It is a criminal offence to make an attempt on one's own life. Of course this provision of law is of no avail except perhaps to pre vent feigned attempts. No one who actually tries to kill himself expects to fail, so no real attempt at suicide is likely to be prevented by the law. But many unfortunates do fail their efforts and many of them become nospital patients for days or weeks before the final issue of their efforts is determined

Now, all of those to whom I refer-and the course of a year they are many are bedridden, and they are in many cases too iil for long periods of time to justify their transfer to the "cage" at Bellevue, where several may be confined together under the guardianship

be confined together under the guardianship of a single policeman.

The unsuccessful remain in their dwelling places or in heapitals for varying periods of time, prisoners, in charge of the police. Thus, for instance, there is now under my care in a hospital a patient who is absolutely certain to die from the effects of poison. She is so feeble that she cannot possibly get out of bed, days have elapsed since she took poison and other days are likely to elapse before she will die. During all this time she before she will die. During all this time she requires in the hospital, and constructively though not actually at her bedside, the services of three policemen a day to see that she does not escape. During all these days, and they are likely to be many, three policemen spend their working hours loafing about the hospital, doing no good to anybody, more or less of a nuisance, and withdrawn as completely from real service to the community as if they were on a holiday. When the patient dies they will disappear. If a patient recovers he is taken before a Magistrate, who always dismisses him.

These cases are really numerous. Last before she will die. During all this time s.

always dismisses him.

These cases are really numerous. Last week I had two others of this kind. Is there no way to stop this absurd diversion of the police from active service?

New YORK, December 16.

Two Speeches.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Furthernore, when Mr. Frank Black made that memorable speech in Washington, Theodore Roos velt sat under the shadow of his long arm. Yet a few short weeks later he chose Mr. Black as the orator who could most graphically set forth the beauties of Rough Riderism. much for consistency, the jewel, in high places. BLACK AND WHITE

The Warmth of Denver's Welcome

From the Denver Republican. While the city might have worried along ithout the meeting, now that it is assured we will all take pride in seeing to it that the

From Beyond the Pacific.

Hemp is a Philippine natural monopoly. It can t be grown profitably in any other part of the orid. The United States is the largest consumer Manila is to have a big carnival the first week in February, 1908, to bring together the people of the different islands of the archipelago as well as citizens of the neighboring countries and colonies. The cocoanut estates in the Pederated Mala States are worth about \$20,000,000, says L. C. Brown, the official in charge of the plantations On October 1, with the completion of the pur-chase and transfer of the Kwansai and Sangu railways by the Japanese Government, the nationall ation of the railways of Japan was com

the revised freight and passenger traffic went into hree, all of which are working. The monthly outout of varn is about 80,000 bales, using 37,500,000 pounds of raw cotton, consisting of 16,300,000 pounds of Indian, 10,000,000 pounds of American, 9,300,000 unds of Chinese and 1,500,000 pounds of other

growths.

The Chinese Imperial Telegraphs took in \$1,-507,176 in 1906, of which \$645,537 was net profit or working capital of only \$1,232,000.

Construction of the Chinese Government's cement works at Soo Tong Wel, on the Island of Honan Hongkong's public service for 1908 fiscal year will cost \$4,992,953. Public works will co Police and prisons need \$699,138, and education is allowed \$200,026. Pensions absorb \$196,000, and he sanitary department \$445,393.

The Pekin Electric Company is to construct

street railways in the Chinese Empire. The capital of 1,000,000 taels has been subscribed by Chinese.

Farmer Endows Lectureship.

Valley City correspondence St. Paul Dispatch. Wednesday Thomas L. and Sarah Hazelett of this city executed papers whereby they settled \$10,000 Wesley College of Grand Forks to endow a lectureship. Mr. and Mrs. Hazelett, old settlers in Barnes county, have become very well to do through farming, and have long wished to show their ap reciation of the effort being made by Dr. Robert on to build up Christian education through the stablishment of Wesley College at the State Uni lectures to be devoted to the promotion of Christian

Mother-Yes, dear, Santa Claus is out all night.

Tommy-Gee, what a handsome present Mrs. Santa Claus must get!

ling on England's Friendship, Sh

Decreasing Her Sea Power.

On November 29 the French Chamber. after discussing for two days the exceedingly alarmist report about the savy drawn M. Chaumet and sanctioned by the Naval Estimates Committee, expressed its conviction "of the necessity and urgency of a general reform," and invited the Government "to prepare as quickly as possible, with the aid of an extraparliamentary commission to be appointed for the purpose. an organic naval law." An "organic law" means in this reference a law fixing the naval standard of the country for a long period, and insuring its maintenance by placing it beyond the reach of party fluctuations. In other words, the existing Parliament would tie the hands of its successors by conferring on its own plans and estimates an irrevocable authority, almost as if they were embodied in the constitu

This resolution of the French Chambe

eems strange in a period when opportunism is the prevailing characteristic of naval budgets all the world over. The strength of any one fleet is relative to that of other leets. What is adequate this year may a year hence become inadequate, or else perhaps excessive, owing to changes occurring elsewhere. All nations are building so rapidly that this relativity has never been so important as it is to-day. The proportionate value of a naval force varies too, of course, with the state of international politics. A new alliance may entirely alter it. Moreover, naval construction is now in such continual flux that the time would appear particularly unpropitious for long range programmes. Germany, it is true, adopted n 1898 an "organic law" for her navy, but that was a piece of domestic political strategy. adopted in conditions-as, for instance, that of a semi-absolute imperial Power-which have no parallel in France, and the German law has not in practice been at all "organic." On the contrary it has twice already, in 1902 and 1906, been fundamentally modified, and it is on the eve of a third violation.

Indeed, the French resolution would scarcely be explicable-if it were serious. It is nothing of the kind. It masks a politcal comedy of the first order. The pronoter of the "organic law" idea is that indefatigable naval agitator Admiral Bienaimé. The Admiral has a contemptuous distrust of political control of the navy, and would therefore rather have that control concentrated into a single dose than exerised from day to day. And he doubtless topes that considerable concessions could be wrung from Parliament when it had to face the prospect of irrevocably determining the sea fate of the country for a generation or so. The Admiral's reasoning is comprehensible, though it may seem to exhibit the rashness of despair. But the attitude of the parliamentary majority in indorsing his scheme exhibits yet more evidently the hallmark of perfidy.

M. Chaumet's report on the naval budget and the debate thereon brought out such facts as these: the French navy has sunk in recent years from the second to the third place on the international list, and in the near future it is destined to sink to the fourth, if not lower still. During the last seven years, as appears by a report of M. Chaumet's speech in the debate, the naval expenditure of several other countries has increased in the following percentages:

46 | Spain. Austria-Hungary .73 Germany 97 England The increase in France has been only

per cent. The expenditure of Germany in 1908 will exceed that of France by \$20,000,000. In 1905 our own naval appropriations were a little more than \$100,000,000; in 1906 a little more than \$102,000,000; in 1907, if President Roosevelt's recommendation is adopted, they will be considerably more than \$110,000,000. France meanwhile is voting \$60,000,000.

not more than one-fifth in the last four years, according to Admiral Bienaimé, has been expended on construction. The rest. he declares, has been swallowed up by

In these circumstances the fact that France is rapidly losing her place in the international competition ceases to be surprising.

Surprising to foreigners, however, may be the tame acquiescence of the country, so far as can be judged from press comments on the naval debate, in this decline. The violent journalistic campaign which was prosecuted the other day for the efficiency of the army is not repeated on behalf of the navy. The army of course is France's first line of defence, and even by that very large number of contemporary Frenchmen who though not anti-militarists are at heart non-militarists, regarding the upkeep of armed force as an evil, though still recognizing its necessity-on land at least-defects in the first line are not readily condoned. But the French view of naval matters is quite different, especially since the entente with Great Britain came into being. Ail through history, indeed, fear of Great Britain and nothing else has forced the French against their wills to be a naval

To return to the Chamber's resolution of November 29. It is evident, as the Temps has pointed out, that an "organic law" is an impossibility in France. In France there is no semi-absolute imperial authority to insure the integrity of such a law. "Parliament governs and it is always free to express its will at any moment." The supposition of future Parliaments consenting to be bound by the resolutions of a predecessor is grotesque. If Admiral Bienaimé is not ware of this, the majority of his parliamentary colleagues certainly are. And in expressing approval of his scheme they were simply avoiding a proposal, as the Temps again implies, to increase the naval estimates on the spot. "Even if it were feasible," says the Tempe, "an 'organic' law could not restore our navy to its place on the international list." Money and nothing else can do that. Instead of \$60,000,000 France would have to vote \$150,000,000 at least to recapture her former rank. The Chamber, permeated by sparing instincts and keeping a shrewd eye on the utility of the British entente, has no intention whatever of voting any such sum. In short, France is voluntarily abdicating her place as a naval Power. If her Parliament should vote an "organic law" the parsimony of its provisions would undoubtedly cause heartburnings to Admiral Bienaim and his friends. Moreover, the voters would surely expect their successors to modify the figures as they pleased.

In the last few years a suspicion has sometimes been expressed in France that perfidious Albion had as usual got the better of the deal in the entente. British support did not seem to amount to much in the Moroccan crisis, and so on. But there is another side to the question. France is exhibiting a growing tendency to rely on British strength everywhere except in her military defence against Germany Last year, for instance, she notably reduced her colonial forces in Indo-China and elsewhere, and even those who criticised the manne in which the reduction was effected admitted that the principle was justifled, "in view of

FRANCE'S NAVAL ABBICATION. | the Anglo-Japanese convention and other international understandings." The only questions for cautious Frenchmen—and the Temps seems to hint at these questions-are : What if the entente with Great Britain should cease? And what if Great Britain should begin to object to France's naval and colonial economies? It will be remembered as a somewhat analogous case that Russia at one time objected strenuously to

French military elackness. All that can be said at present is that so far, judging by the comments of the London press on the debate in question, Great Britain is willing to let her friend be an conomical as she chooses.

THE NEW BUILDING CODE. Should He Adopted as It Stands Withou

Submitting It to the Aldermen. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is, I believe, the first professions body to express an opinion on the draft for a new building code that is now before the Board of Aldermen. At a meeting of the chapter last Wednesday the revision was indorsed without a dissenting vote and a committee was appointed to urge its adoption. A deliberate judgment from a quarter such as this must be accepted as not only competent but altogether unprejudiced, for as a class architects have no proprietary interests

likely to be affected by the code. The character of the objections raised elsewhere against the revision tend to confirm the impression that the authors of the draft have done their work in a disinterested manner ne owners of high priced sites downtown urge that to limit the height of buildings would decrease the value of their holdings, but concede that the restriction would other land owners by extending office constructions over a wider area. Again, that the new code would shut them out of New York market. On the other hand the code is said to authorize the use of stand

of giving builders a wider selection than they have at present.

There seems to be no question that the draft has been prepared solely with reference to the welfare of the community at large. Hence, in view of the larger discretionary power conferred by the Charter on the superintendents of buildings in the various boroughs, would not private as well as public interests be better served by having the code adopted as it stands than by submitting it to the political tinkering of the Board of Aldermen?

Section 410 of the Charter says:

Section 410 of the Charter says:

Each superintendent of buildings shall have power, with the approval of the President of the Borough " " to vary or modify " " the provision of this chapter or of any existing law or ordinance relating to the construction, alteration or removal of any building or structure erected or to be erected within his jurisdiction " " where there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the strict letter of the law, so that the spirit of the law shall be observed and public safety secured and substantial justice done.

This averaging rower regulation undiminished.

This sweeping power remains undiminished By its exercise any provision of the new code may evidently be changed on behalf of substantial justice, and a change once made in order to meet the requirements of equity in a particular instance becommatter of public record and "may be New York, December 16.

A VISION OF JUDGMENT. Cataclysmic Sympathy of Nature With Great Convulsionnaire.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: On certain morning in June, 1908, it seemed to men that the end of the world was undoubtedly upon them. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon a cloud of a very unusual shape and size suddenly appeared above the horizon. Its appearance might be likened to that of a gigantic letter H. In it there appeared inous spots, as though it were more or less impregnated with smouldering flames. Soon this cloud spread over the whole face of nature and semi-darkness supervened. With its spread an increasing heat was felt. Now and anon blinding flashes of lightning played through the misty vapors that pervaded the atmosphere and terrific crashes of thunder resounded.

The whole earth seemed to shake and rock,

great chasms opened in its crust, the sea receded from the shores of the continents. whole mountain ranges toppled over or sank into the bowels of the earth, and great rivers, their waters red with blood, were changed in their courses. The great steel skyscrapers of the metropolis, the Singer Building among them, collapsed like so many bird cages in of fire were added to those already rampant Save for the flames, a deeper darkness pre-vailed than in the thickest night. The sea

Save for the flames, a deeper darkness prevailed than in the thickest night. The sea now resurged and a great tidal wave swept over the land, completing the destruction and drowning out all remaining life.

At first men were dazed. Then a wild panic ensued. The groams of the injured and dying and the shouts of the frenzied mob swelled the awful din. Bedlam reigned, and men, women and children were heaped together in masses. Smothered by each other and by the noxious fumes with which the whole atmosphere was permeated, licked up by flame or swept up by the waves of the sea, whole legions perished like rats.

The reason of this horrid cataclysm, this awful holocaust? The Republican national convention of 1908 had been held and another than Teddy had been nominated for the Presidency.

Regorkers, December 15.

BROOKLYN, December 15.

THE POET MAYOR. A Statesman Who Used to Make Shoes and Now Makes Feet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mayor-elect is not, strictly speaking, a poet He is rather a well to do business man who sometimes takes a flyer in the muse market. New Yorkers do in the Wall Street swir In his "City Songs and Country Carols. which embraces 241 different titles, the practical predominates. By way of illustration once at the end of a long series of successes in the political arena he was defeated, upor

Where are the men, both young and old, Whose smile and hand clasp I so need? I pause to think, my heart grows cold; Why, this is borrible indeed? But the prospect of future triumphs was ver a lubricant to his muse:

I have had more than comes to many mortals. So my best instincts with emotions swell;
And the thre wealth's and fame's impe portais
I have not passed, I have been used quite well. The future holds out promise, too. We

have great expectations from his efforts in his coming position: But of the great things we have cherished and planned
We take a far different view—
The things we feel sure will eternally stand—
The things we are going to do.

We hasten to send this to you because w fear that you may not have the opportunof forming a correct estimate of the nin the examination of his muse. The shines on Lynn, as it does on other cities this country, sometimes with the heat of it rays perceptibly chilled by distance, and a other times warm with midsummer intensit, We want The Sun's warmth the comin year. Mayor-Elect Porter's Admirers. Lynn, December 14.

Hope for the Bald.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Nixey for mine on those squawks and snorts about no chance o prevent premature baldness! Listen and get

For years I fell for remedies to stop my hair from ming out and so on, till "I took your medicine for catarrh, now I have a banjo, was my case precisely. Here's the dope: merge the head in cold water daily, rub quite dry, then pour small amount of olive oil on top of inery, rub in, and there you are. Try it and

Oh, yes, avoid short beds and tight undershirts PHILADELPHIA, December 15. E. F. BURKE,

Howling Wolf's Mission

From the Geary Journal. Howling Wolf, a Cheyenne, rattled into Geary the ther day and asked for a copy of the State Constitution, saying that he wanted to read it and teach his people how to become good and useful cluzens, Hurrah for Howling Wolf:

> 'Ils Ever Thus. I want to know by what mischance, By what queer twist of fate, it's cold enough to freeze the pipe

But makes no ice to skate

THE QUAKER POST. Observations Suggested by the Whittier

Centenary. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: centenary of Longfellow's birth but a few months past, we are this week commemorating hittier, born December 17, 1807. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of these anniverindividual poets than, through that consideration, the sidelight directed upon the place, influence and achievement of the poetic art it said that poetry belongs to the dead past, and has no future; the occurrence within the space of a year of two such literary anniversaries, observed so generally and with such genuine enthusiasm, evokes the half exultant

Was it not Whipple who first critically analyzed the working of imagination in our national life, showing that our first poets were the pioneers, our earliest bards the builders? The conception, then a truth, became a truism; to-day the observation, trite and tiresome, is outworn and belongs on the rubbish heap-where would, having survived its usefulness, it might be buried and forgotten For we have had poets; we have poets to-day (if they are marchpane poets, it's that kind of an age); and greater we yet shall surely have. And best of all, we have always, in the phrase of the Autocrat, "the poets who only read and listen"-and who celebrate the anniversaries of the poets who have written. "O thou who art able to write a book," rhapodically apostrophized Carlyle, "which once in the two centuries or oftener there is a man gifted to do, envy not him whom they name

odically apostrophized Carlyle, "which once in the two centuries or oftener there is a man gifted to do, envy not him whom they name City Builder, and inexpressibly pity him whom they name Conqueror, or City Burner: So our Aldrich: "The sacredest of tombs are those that hold your poets." The people believe it! Else why make each of our best singers: "name a star, his grave a shrine."

By the accident of birth, the mere temporal and local coincidence, comparison of Longfellow and Whittier is challenged—a challesig which pleasantly appeals to American love of competition. How griping a passion it is with us! The student values the winning of a prize or the attainment of academic 'honors,' more often than not, for the sensation of having beaten some other aspirant. That is his incentive, that his high reward. In athletics the thrill of the contest is equalled for surpassed by the pleasant exoltenent of the supplementary ranking. So it is to some extent even in business, in social life, in politics: so in literature. Each poet has his "rooters," happiest when proving their own man better than the other fellow s.

Longfellow was the traveller, Whittier the stay-at-home. Longfellow is antecedents were bookish, Whittier's were aternly practical Longfellow was university trained. Whittier was self-taught: the one formally educated, the other left to piot and follow his own paths of reading. Longfellow welcomed fihe did not seek social intercourse: Whittier lived much by himself. And yel Longfellow touched the masses only intellectually, while Whittier as a reformer was a force in the nobler politics of his day and generation. If Whittier's centennial honors are less heralded than Longfellow's it may yet prove to be that the quieter stream has the greater depth and volume. Whittier has no Harvard to claque him!

Whittier's greatness rests upon his Americanism. There are technical faults in his work sufficient to break down any but the roanism. There are technical faults in his work sufficient to break down any but the r

NEW YORK, December 16.

The Laureate of the New England Home TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The fact that it was only on Memorial Day this year that Whittier's name was admitted to

such distinction as the Hall of Fame on University Heights confers may be taken as an indication of the battle of standards as to greatness that prevails among those guar dians who sit at the gates to challenge the worth of all comers. As regards the American people there is no shadow of a doubt as to whom they acclaim their greatest poets and among these is the poet whose legendar ballads and simple lays of New England life bring back the scent of clover and of pine. of birch and fern, the hum of bees, the beauty of New England hills and the charm and comfort of the New England home. To one class of Whittier's admirers "Snow-Bound" will ever remain a picture of home life at its best, picture that has a pathetic charm in these days when the old fashioned home is merely a nemory to such as live in cities, but

days when the old fashioned home is merely a memory to such as live in cities, but whose youth was spent in scenes that enabled them to realize in our first American indy lits truthfulness and charm and the living reality of its picturesque details. To this perfect idy! there are a number of companion pictures in Whittier's verse, including among others "In School Days," "Maud Muiler," "The Barefoot Boy," "Mabel Martin," "My Playmate, the volume "Among the Hills," "June on the Merrimack" and others, all redolent of the hills and woods and farms which every New Englander knows and loves.

The side of Whittier's character, poetic appreciation and insight shown in such poems as these has endeared him to countless thousands elsewhere than in New England, for it remains true that one touch of nature makes the whole world kin, and such touches are part of the warp and woof of Whitter's poetry. It was in such homelike themes that his genius was most manifest and his superiority in these to all other American poets might rightly confer upon him the title of Laureate of the New England Home. Had he been left, perhaps, to his own preferences, uninfluenced by the call of duty, love of humanity and hatred of wrong and oppression, he would have been possibly a more lovable and gentle figure, but his impress upon American life and character would have been ress profound, and the great cause of anti-slavery would have missed the stirring and inspiring notes of its Tytzeus, to whose music its followers gladly marched to meet the greatest crisis in American history.

This is but translating into prose what the poet, under the freedom of anonymity, has said of himself in song. In "The Tent on the Beach" Whittier has told in five stanzas what the best and authorized biography of the poet relates in two volumes—the real story of his later life and aspirations. If a further condensation is necessary to suit the exigencies of a time too much occupied with present problems to care greatly for poetry it would suffice to quote the firs

And one there was, a dreamer born,
Who, with a mission to fuifit,
Had left the Muses' haunts to turn
The crank of an opinion mill,
Making his rustic reed of song
A weapon in the war with wrong.

Making his rustle reed of song
A weapon in the war with wrong.

It was the inspiration that came from a great aim that lent a dignity and force to whittier's poetry immediately preceding and during war time. Some of these lyrics, like "Barbara Frietchie," "Laus Deo" and others, were flame blossoms of war and showed the spirit of the soldier and the crusader rather than the peace loving Quaker, and it was not until "Snow-Bound" appeared in 1866 that the stern moralist and reformer returned to the themes he loved best. But he did not return until the battle was won. The poet and dreamer of Amesbury was not the poet of lost, but of winning causes; and the battle once won, the desire of his heart, like that of Grant, was for peace. Though the stern antagonisms and hates engendered by the conflict alienated some of his former admirers and friends, he won them back in the calm and golden afternoon of his life and song, and to-day his place among American singers, despite the rushlight criticism that thinks more of art than of truth to nature, may be regarded as secure. H. T. S.

New York, December 15.

Saving His Countr

From the Kansas City Times Noble Prentis was a man of small stature, and the ory goes that at the beginning of the civil war when he sought to enlist as a soldler he was found to fall several inches short of the minimum height equired by army regulations and was ordered to step aside by the recruiting officer. Mr. Prentis did so reluctantly, muttering as he went: "I sup-pose I'll have to let my country go to hell because

'm not eight feet tall.' The recruiting officer overheard the remark and called him back, saying, "Young man, you'll do." and Prentis was callsted and mustered into the